METHOD FOR REDUCING UNAUTHO-RIZED USE OF SOFTWARE/DIGITAL CON-TENT INCLUDING SELF-ACTI-VATING/SELF-AUTHENTICATING SOFT-WARE/DIGITAL CONTENT

Abstract

A method for reducing unauthorized use of software includes designating software for protection via a corresponding identifier associated with the software. The identifier is detected by an authorized representative entity that may be resident on a user computer, network, or device, remotely located relative to the user, or both. The software is self-activating/self-authenticating when used in conjunction with a resident authorized representative. During the first use or transfer of the content designated for protection, the authorized representative generates a password or authentication code based on user system information and links the code to the content. Subsequent use or access to the content requires that the current system information at least partially match the system information of the authorized system encoded

in the authorization code or codes associated with the content.